

## AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the Application:

### Listing of Claims:

Claims 1-32 (canceled)

Claim 33 (New) An adhesive composition comprising a thermoplastic hydrophilic homogeneous polymeric matrix, said adhesive composition having an elastic modulus at 37°C,  $G'_{37}$ , and a viscous modulus at 37°C,  $G''_{37}$ , said thermoplastic hydrophilic homogeneous polymeric matrix having a 24-hour maximum liquid absorption capacity ranging from 0.02 g/g to 5 g/g, and a liquid absorption rate defined by said polymeric matrix having a liquid absorption capacity at 1 min that is at least 15% of said 24-hour maximum liquid absorption capacity;

wherein said elastic modulus  $G'_{37}$  (1 rad/s) ranges from 100 Pa to 500,000Pa;

wherein said elastic modulus  $G''_{37}$  (1 rad/s) ranges from 50 Pa to 200,000 Pa; and,

wherein the ratio  $G'_{37}$  (100 rad/s) /  $G'_{37}$  (1 rad/s)  $\leq 20$ .

Claim 34 (New) The adhesive composition of Claim 33, wherein said adhesive composition has a moisture vapor transmission rate of at least 200 g/m<sup>2</sup> 24h.

Claim 35 (New) The adhesive composition of Claim 33, wherein said thermoplastic hydrophilic homogeneous polymeric matrix comprises:

a first polar cohesive thermoplastic polymer or blend of polar cohesive thermoplastic polymers;

a second polar adhesive thermoplastic polymer or blend of polar adhesive thermoplastic polymers;

a compatible plasticiser or blend of compatible plasticisers; and,

optionally, a tackifying, resin or blend of tackifying resins.

Claim 36 (New) The adhesive composition of Claim 35, wherein said first polar cohesive thermoplastic polymer or at least one polymer of said blend of polar cohesive thermoplastic polymers is a thermoplastic elastomer.

Claim 37 (New) The adhesive composition of Claim 35, wherein said first polar cohesive thermoplastic polymer or at least one polymer in said blend of polar cohesive thermoplastic polymers has a 24-hour maximum liquid absorption capacity of at least 0.01 g/g.

Claim 38 (New) The adhesive composition of Claim 35, wherein said second polar adhesive thermoplastic polymer or at least one polymer in said blend of polar adhesive thermoplastic polymers has a 24-hour maximum liquid absorption capacity of at least 0.01 g/g.

Claim 39 (New) The adhesive composition of Claim 35, wherein said first polar adhesive thermoplastic polymer or blend of polar cohesive thermoplastic polymers and said second thermoplastic polymer or blend of polar cohesive thermoplastic polymers comprise not more than 70% by weight of a thermoplastic polymer or polymers having a maximum 24-hour liquid absorption capacity of less than 0.01 g/g.

Claim 40 (New) The adhesive composition of Claim 35, wherein said thermoplastic hydrophilic homogeneous polymeric matrix further comprises:

- from 1% by weight to 50% by weight of said matrix of said first polar cohesive thermoplastic polymer or blend of polar cohesive thermoplastic polymers;
- from 1% by weight to 80% by weight of said matrix of said second adhesive thermoplastic polymer or blend of polar adhesive thermoplastic polymers;
- from 5% by weight to 85% by weight of said matrix of said compatible plasticiser or blend of compatible plasticisers; and,
- from 0% by weight to 45% by weight of said matrix of said tackifying resin or blend of tackifying resins.

Claim 41 (New) The adhesive composition of Claim 35, wherein said first polar cohesive thermoplastic polymer or blend of polar cohesive thermoplastic polymers is selected from the group consisting of polyurethanes, polyether-, polyester-, and polyetherester-amide block copolymers, ionomers, polyesters and copolyesters, polyetherester block copolymers, polyamides and copolyamides, polyethylene vinylacetate with vinylacetate content of at least 28%, polyethylene acrylic and methacrylic ester copolymers, polyethylene acrylic acid copolymers, polyethylene vinyl alcohol copolymers, styrenic block copolymers and polyolefins polarly modified by insertion or grafting of, or by copolymerization with, highly polar groups/monomers such as maleic or succinic anhydride, carbon monoxide, sulphonic groups, etc., and blends thereof.

Claim 42 (New) The adhesive composition of Claim 35, wherein said second polar adhesive thermoplastic polymer or blend of polar adhesive thermoplastic polymers is selected from the group consisting of sulfonated polyesters, thermoplastic polyacrylates, polyvinyl pyrrolidone and its copolymers such as polyvinyl pyrrolidone vinyl acetate copolymer, polyvinyl ethers, polyvinyl alcohol, polyethylene oxide, polyketones, and blends thereof.

Claim 43 (New) The adhesive composition of Claim 35, wherein said compatible plasticiser or blend of compatible plasticisers is selected from the group consisting of citric acid esters, tartaric acid esters, benzoic acid esters, sucrose esters, tri-mellitates, sorbitol, urea, epoxidized vegetable oils, polymerised vegetable oils, castor oil and its derivatives, phthalates, liquid polyesters, liquid polyamides, glycolates, aromatic sulfonamides, polyhydric alcohols and their esters, glycerol and its esters, pentaerythritol and its esters, glycols and polyglycols and their esters and ethers, polyethylene glycol- polypropylene glycol block copolymers, sorbitan esters, phosphates, lactic acid and its esters, mono- and dicarboxylic fatty acids (C<sub>8</sub>-C<sub>22</sub>) and their esters, esters of mono- and dicarboxylic fatty acids (C<sub>8</sub>-C<sub>22</sub>) hydrophilically modified by insertion in the molecular chain of 1 to 40 moles of ethylene oxide and/or of propylene oxide per mole of base ester, polyethers and their derivatives, and blends thereof.

Claim 44 (New) The adhesive composition of Claim 35, wherein said optional tackifying resin or blend of tackifying resins is selected from the group consisting of rosins and rosin esters, aromatic and aliphatic-aromatic resins, terpene and terpene-phenolic resins, aromatic acrylic resins, and blends thereof.

Claim 45 (New) The adhesive composition of Claim 33, wherein said thermoplastic hydrophilic homogeneous polymeric matrix comprises not more than 25% by weight of said matrix of one or more components which are soluble or dispersible in a saline solution containing 0.9% by weight of sodium chloride in water.

Claim 46 (New) The adhesive composition of Claim 33, wherein said thermoplastic hydrophilic homogeneous polymeric matrix has a complex viscosity,  $\eta^*$ , in the range of 5 poise  $< \eta^* < 4,000$  poise at a frequency of 1 rad/s, and  $\eta^* < 2000$  poise at a frequency of 1000 rad/s, said complex viscosities at having a process temperature, T, ranging from 110°C to 210°C.

Claim 47 (New) The adhesive composition of Claim 33, wherein said adhesive composition comprises an inorganic solid filler compound or blend of inorganic solid filler compounds dispersed into said thermoplastic hydrophilic homogeneous polymeric matrix.

Claim 48 (New) The adhesive of Claim 33, said adhesive being disposed upon a wearer facing surface of a disposable human waste management device, said disposable human waste management device comprising a bag having an aperture and a flange surrounding said aperture for adhesive attachment to the urogenital and/or perianal area of a wearer, said flange comprising said wearer facing surface comprising said adhesive composition.